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The situation in Central America: progress in fashioning a region of peace, freedom, democracy and development

Letter dated 27 July 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to request that the present letter and its annex be distributed as a document of the General Assembly under item 42 of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Mary E. **Flores**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* A/65/150.

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Annex to the letter dated 27 July 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Honduras to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Honduras, I have the honour to present our compliments to you. I should like to inform you, and through you the States Members of the Organization, of some of the action taken by the Constitutional President of the Republic, Mr. Porfirio Lobo Sosa, to promote the unity and reconciliation of the Honduran nation, with a view to strengthening democracy.

In that connection, it will be useful to recall some of the efforts made by the present Government, such as fulfilment of the commitments set out in the Tegucigalpa-San José Accord; the establishment of a Government of National Unity with participation by representatives of the five legally established political parties; the establishment and installation of the Truth Commission; the legislative approval and presidential endorsement of the Act on the "Vision for the Country and National Plan", setting out the foundations for the country's development for the next 28 years; and the approval of the Amnesty Act by means of Decree No. 2-2010, which, although not provided for in the Tegucigalpa-San José Accord, has been viewed as a means to promote reconciliation. Additionally, civil society has been consistently involved in the various discussions that have taken place in recent months.

Honduras, like a number of other countries in the region, is going through a period of insecurity, resulting from a complex interaction of internal and external factors. In the light of that situation, my Government has made it a priority to guarantee and protect human rights. To that end, a ministerial-level post of Presidential Advisor has been established to develop a State policy on human rights, with the aim of strengthening efforts to defend and promote human rights in our country.

In recognition of the progress made in the Government's first six months in office, the recent Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government of the countries of the Central American Integration System (SICA) for the relaunch of the process of Central American integration, which was held on 20 July this year in San Salvador, El Salvador, issued a special declaration on Honduras, which highlights and recognizes the progress made by President Lobo Sosa towards re-establishment of the constitutional order in Honduras and expresses support for the country's full re-entry into SICA.

In consequence, I should be most grateful if you would circulate to the States Members of the United Nations the document entitled "Special declaration on Honduras" issued at the Summit (see enclosure).

My Government appreciates the democratic solidarity expressed by various countries and their support for the ongoing efforts to eliminate the international marginalization which others are seeking to impose on the legitimate and democratic Government of Honduras. The desire of the Honduran people is for our country to develop in an atmosphere of peace, unity, respect and understanding, so as to bring about reconciliation in Honduran society.

Reiterating our unwavering intention to participate actively in the attainment of the shared objectives which inspired the creation of the United Nations, I take this opportunity to convey to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) Mario Miguel **Canahuati**
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Enclosure

Special declaration on Honduras

We, the Heads of State and Government of Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Costa Rica, Panama and the Dominican Republic, on the occasion of our meeting for the relaunch of regional integration, held in the city of San Salvador on 20 July 2010:

1. Express our firm support for and recognition of the commitment of the Constitutional President, Porfirio Lobo, to guaranteeing respect for democratic institutions, the rule of law and observance of human rights in Honduras, and the responsibility he has assumed in that regard;

2. State that the Honduran authorities have been exercising in practice the rights and obligations conferred on the Republic of Honduras as a member of the Central American Integration System, as demonstrated by the country's participation in the SICA-European Union summit, the Panama summit, the SICA-Korea summit, the SICA-Italy summit and other sectoral meetings within the framework of SICA;

3. Decide, on the present occasion and in recognition of the progress made towards re-establishment of the constitutional order in Honduras and the need for the Honduran authorities fully to exercise the rights and obligations conferred by the Central American Integration System, to give our formal and complete support to normalization of the participation of Honduras in SICA;

4. Request the States members of the Organization of American States (OAS), in the framework of the OAS High-Level Commission, to facilitate and bring about as rapidly as possible the re-entry of Honduras into OAS, and also repeat the call to the Honduran authorities to guarantee all Honduran citizens the full exercise of their fundamental rights.

(*Signed*) Mauricio **Funes**
President of the Republic of El Salvador

(*Signed*) Gaspar **Vega**
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister
of Natural Resources and the Environment of Belize

(*Signed*) Laura **Chinchilla Miranda**
President of the Republic of Costa Rica

(*Signed*) Álvaro **Colom Caballeros**
President of the Republic of Guatemala

(*Signed*) Porfirio **Lobo Sosa**
President of the Republic of Honduras

(*Signed*) Ricardo **Martinelli**
President of the Republic of Panama

(*Signed*) Rafael **Alburquerque**
Vice-President of the Dominican Republic